

REMARKS

Claims 5-7 and 9-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 7 has been amended and claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter found therein.

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on December 9, 2004. The Form PTO-1449 accompanying the IDS identified five references. A copy of the Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the date stamped receipt showing receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are attached. It is respectfully requested that the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned to Applicant showing consideration of the references by the Examiner.

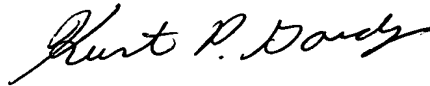
Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 6 and 9-12, in paragraph 4, on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant also appreciates the indication of allowability of claim 8, in paragraph 5, on page 2 of the Office Action. Accordingly, claim 7 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 8 and claim 5 depends from claim 7. Thus, claims 5 and 7 are allowable.

In paragraph 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kikuchi et al. (Kikuchi), U.S. Patent No. 6,666,871. The rejection has been rendered moot by the amendment of claim 7 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 8 and claim 5 which depends from allowable claim 7.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 5 and 7, in addition to previously allowed claims 6 and 9-12, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Registration No. 52,954

JAO:KPG/rle

Attachments:

Copy of the Form PTO-1449 filed December 9, 2005

Copy of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office date stamped receipt

Date: August 9, 2005

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The following papers have been filed:

Information Disclosure Statement; PTO-1449; 4 References

Name of Applicant: Haruo ODA

Serial No.: 10/670,340

Atty. File No.: 115154

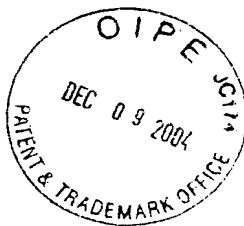
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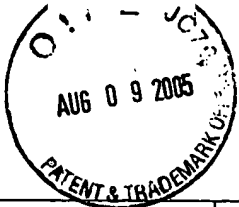
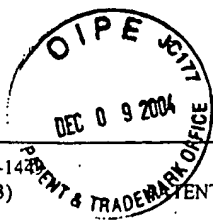
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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 117232		APPLICATION NO. 10/670,340	
		APPLICANT Haruo ODA					
		FILING DATE September 26, 2003				GROUP 3700	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
	1.	5,873,879	2/23/99	Figueroa et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
	2.	WO 96/37152 A	11/28/96	WO			
	3.	EP 0 937 443 A2	8/25/99	EP			
	4.	EP 0 477 466 A1	4/1/92	EP			
	5.	EP 1 332 731 A1	8/6/03	EP			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							